

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 7 and 8 are pending. Claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Abstract

With respect to the Examiner's comment regarding the Abstract, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(i)-(iv), which discusses the three terms that can be used for amending the specification: delete, replace, and add. In the previous response, Applicant used the terms "delete" and "add" which *do not require markings* instead of "replace." Therefore, the amendment to the Abstract was in accordance with the procedures of § 1.121.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 7(1), 7(2), 8(1), and 8(2) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaya (WO 02083446).

Claims 3, 7(3) and 8(3) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaya in view of Asai (JP H07-279987).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

roller members are respectively mounted at positions on surfaces of the motor-side plate and a wheel-side place, which face to the intermediate plate side, in the circumference direction, so as to oppose each other,

the guide portions comprises a stepped portion, which is formed so as to extend in the moving direction of the roller member, on a front and rear surface of the intermediate plate;

a sectional form of a stepped surface that is a surface of the stepped portion crossing the intermediate plate corresponds to a form of a side surface of the roller; and

a form of the side surface on the stepped surface side of the roller member is brought into contact with the stepped surface so as to control the moving direction of the roller member.

Applicant respectfully submits that Nagaya does not teach or suggest all of the recitations of claim 1.

The direct moving guide 18p (18q) according to the third embodiment of Nagaya (FIGS. 16-19) guides a first member to which the guide member 18y is installed in one way with respect to a second member to which the guide rail 18x is installed by sliding the convex portion of the guide rail 18x along with the concave portion of the guide member 18y, while the steel ball 18 reduces sliding friction between the convex portion of guide rail 18x and the concave portion of the guide member 18y. The first and second members of Nagaya are the intermediate plate 18B and the motor-side plate 18A, respectively, and the guide rail 18x installed to the motorside plate 18A is integrated with the motor-side plate 18A and the guide member 18y installed to the intermediate plate 18B is integrated with the intermediate plate. In these combined structures, a convex portion is formed on the motor-side plate 18A, and a concave portion is formed on the intermediate plate 18B, and the steel ball 18m is arranged in the passage surrounded by the convex portion and the concave portion.

In contrast, according to the roller member of the in-wheel steering system of claim 1, as regarding the two plates as the motor-side plate and the intermediate plate, respectively, a pair of the roller member are respectively mounted so as to oppose each other at positions on surfaces of

the motor-side plate and a wheel-side plate, which face to the intermediate plate side, in the circumferential direction. One of side surface of the roller member is brought into contact with the stepped surface of the stepped portion on the intermediate plate side.

That is, according to the system of claim 1, *the stepped surface between the roller member and the stepped portion can slide.*

Also, according to system of claim 1, the roller member is mounted so as to oppose each other at positions on surfaces of the motor-side, which face to the intermediate plate side, in the circumference direction that the intermediate plate can be supported. One side surface of the roller member according to the system of claim 1 moves with abutting with the stepped surface of the stepped portion. This is neither taught nor disclosed by Nagaya.

Also, Nagaya does not disclose or suggest that each roller is mounted so as to oppose each other at positions on surfaces of the motor-side plate and a wheel-side plate, which face to the intermediate plate side, in the circumference direction so as to support the intermediate plate.

Finally, claim 1 recites that a sectional form of a stepped surface that is a surface of the stepped portion crossing the intermediate plate *corresponds to a form of a side surface of the roller.* This feature is not disclosed in Nagaya, in which the forms of the convex and concave portion do not correspond to the shape of the ball 18m.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8

Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 are patentable at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

In addition, Asai, which the Examiner cites as showing a dust boot, does not make up for the deficiencies in Nagaya discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 28, 2009

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